

Appln. No. 09/234,695

Amendment dated September 22, 2003

Reply to Office Action mailed April 21, 2003

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims (deleted text being struck through and added text being underlined):

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Cancelled)
12. (Cancelled)
13. (Cancelled)
14. (Cancelled)
15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A computer-implemented method of ~~claim 11~~ for processing signals related to trading shifts between employees, the method comprising:

accepting a conditional offer, by a first employee assigned to work a first shift, to trade the first shift for another shift of another employee;

displaying to other employees the conditional offer to trade the first shift for another shift;

receiving a conditional acceptance from a second employee to trade a second shift of the second employee for the offered first shift of the first employee; and

confirming a trade of the first shift of the first employee for the second shift of the second employee upon verification of criteria, or rejecting the trade of the first shift for the second shift upon non-verification of the criteria;

wherein the step of confirming includes checking training data associated with the second employee in a training data database, and comparing the training data associated with the second employee with training requirements associated with a work area function to be performed on the first shift to verify that the second employee is qualified to perform the work area functions associated with the first shift;

wherein the step of confirming includes checking a length of time between a time of receipt of the conditional acceptance and a time of occurrence of the first shift and the second shift against a minimum time period for trading shifts to verify that the length of time is not less ~~that~~ than the minimum time period;

additionally including displaying to the second employee, upon confirmation of the trade, notifications relevant to the work area function of the first shift and the training data associated with the second employee;

additionally including indicating to the first employee, upon

Appln. No. 09/234,695

Amendment dated September 22, 2003

Reply to Office Action mailed April 21, 2003

confirmation of the trade, the confirmation of the trade; and

 additionally including restricting access to information about the trade
of the first shift for the second shift upon confirmation of the trade.